

Town of Mansfield  
Energy Education Team  
Minutes of the Meeting  
November 8, 2011

Present: Doug Goodstein, Dennison Nash, Pene Williams, Don Hoyle, Madeline Priest (Neighbor to Neighbor), Ginny Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by acting chair Dennison Nash.

The minutes from the October 11, 2011 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Dennison reported that he and Ginny attended a Juniper Hill Village presentation about the 50 kilowatt photovoltaic system which became operational in June of 2011.

Madeline reported that the November 2, 2011 Neighbor to Neighbor community group presentation was cancelled because of low interest. Victory Energy Solutions, an approved Home Energy Solutions vendor, would like to meet with the Energy Education Team to discuss marketing strategies for Neighbor to Neighbor. Madeline will invite them to the December meeting. Neighbor to Neighbor had a table at the Willimantic Downtown Country Fair – about 35 people signed up to participate in the Challenge. Madeline stated that Mansfield residents who have signed up for the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge are demonstrating poor follow through on their commitments. Neighbor to Neighbor just hired two energy advisors to address this issue. Ginny stated that Three Rivers Community College offers a sustainability (SOAR) certificate program, and they are looking to place interns with municipalities for work experience. Doug Perkins, a teacher at Middle School, has expressed interest in having a SOAR intern help the school with a Neighbor to Neighbor initiative. Ginny will contact Doug Perkins to set up a meeting with Madeline to develop a job description for an internship.

Ginny reported that the Energy Education Team will be hosting a transition town training on January 7 and 8, 2012 at the Mansfield Town Hall.

Don reported on the recent Mansfield Hollow Hydro presentation made before the Town Council. Ginny stated that a power purchase agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the Mansfield Hydro project is in process. Ginny will relay the Energy Education Team's support of a power purchase agreement at the next Sustainability Committee meeting.

Pene, who is on the Downtown Partnership's Planning and Design Committee, stated that the new development needs to feature renewable energy systems. Ginny reported that energy company, Siemen's Corporation, recently announced that they are offering power purchase agreements for photovoltaic systems 100 kilowatts or larger. The Town is looking into this for the parking garage, but this might also be appropriate for other

structures in the downtown. Ginny will pass the information about the new Siemen's program to Cynthia vanZelm, the Partnership Director.

The Team discussed how to generate more interest in the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge. Don said he wrote a letter to the editor of the Chronicle about energy issues. For the next meeting Don will bring in an energy article by Susan Johnson that appeared in the paper. The Team will consider canvassing neighborhoods in the spring. Doug said that he might be able to enlist UConn students to help canvas.

Doug reported on revolving energy micro-loans and shared an example of Harvard's revolving green campus loan fund. The money is repaid out of the savings from the investment. He found this model of private-public partnerships where a municipality works with a credit union or a local bank is available for businesses, but not for residential energy retrofits. Ginny will connect Doug with Roger Smith, of Clean Water Action, who may have examples of municipalities that offer energy loans for their residents.

Doug reported that UConn freshman and sophomores are in the midst of an Eco-Madness contest. One of the buildings has reduced its energy and water use by 15% and 10% respectively. In an effort to maintain that energy reduction after the contest ends, residential life staff would like to enlist eco-representatives for each dorm where their sole job is to raise consciousness about sustainability issues.

Ginny reported that the Town will be bidding on a new oil and diesel contract. Ginny has asked, on behalf of the sustainability committee, that the Town consider biodiesel manufactured from a local source (restaurant fryolator oil). Before the current municipal electric supply contract ends, Ginny would like to research suppliers that offers 100% class 1 New England renewable energy at a reduced rate that can be extended to residents.

Ginny reported that the Home Energy Basics presentations, Part I and Part II will be repeated in January and March, 2012 through the Community Center's winter class offerings.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton